

Message Text

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FOLLOWING REPEAT VIENNA 3535 ACTION SECSTATE DTD 2 MAY

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C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENNA 3535

NODIS

FOR EUR: WARREN ZIMMERMANN

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP (MONDALE, WALTER F.), AU

SUBJ: VICE PRESIDENT'S TRIP TO VIENNA: KREISKY VIEWS ON
EAST-WEST RELATIONS

REF: STATE 098382

1. KREISKY'S VIEWS ON EAST-WEST RELATIONS REFLECT
AUSTRIA'S POSITION IN CENTRAL EUROPE AND ITS TRADITIONAL
TIES WITH EASTERNEUROPE ON ONE HAND, AND ITS DEDICATION
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PAGE 02 STATE 098958

TO POLITICAL PLURALISM AND DEMOCRACY ON THE OTHER.
IN KREISKY'S VIEW, THERE IS NO VIABLE ALTERNATIVE TO
DETENTE WITH EASTERN EUROPE. AT SAME TIME, EXPANDED
RELATIONS MUST BE MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL TO ENSURE PUBLIC
SUPPORT.

2. KREISKY BELIEVES ADVANTAGES FOR EUROPEAN COMMUNIST

COUNTRIES IN ECONOMIC/COMMERCIAL RELATIONS WITH WEST ARE MORE IMPORTANT THAN DISADVANTAGES ON IDEOLOGICAL-POLITICAL SIDE FLOWING FROM HELSINKI FINAL ACT, INCLUDING HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUES. ACCORDING TO KREISKY'S ANALYSIS, HUMAN RIGHTS ADVOCATES IN COMMUNIST COUNTRIES LACK SUPPORT OF WORKERS AND IN ABSENCE OF SUCH SUPPORT, EE REGIMES WILL PROBABLY BE ABLE TO CONTAIN FURTHER CHALLENGES TO THEIR RULE BY DISSIDENTS. KREISKY FEELS THAT ADVANCED AGE AND GENERAL CONSERVATISM OF SOVIET LEADERSHIP MAKES LESS LIKELY MAJOR REVERSAL OF CURRENT SOVIET FOREIGN POLICY OF DETENTE AND SELECTIVE EAST WEST-COOPERATION.

3. KREISKY CONCLUDES THAT WEST SHOULD CONTINUE TO PURSUE ACTIVE POLICY OF EAST-WEST COOPERATION ON BOARD FRONT WITH AIM OF ENGAGING EAST IN IDEOLOGICAL COMPETITION ON MORE FAVORABLE TERMS. KREISKY IS AWARE, HOWEVER, THAT LATTER UNDERTAKING IS ONLY POSSIBLE IF U.S. COMMITMENT TO EUROPE IS MAINTAINED AND IF DETENTE IS NOT CONFINED SOLELY TO EUROPE. MEEHAN UNQTE
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